

The Extraordinary Life of Jimmy Carter

What's the Secret?



presented by Joshua Montanari, Education Specialist



Supporting the National Archives



Mission

We drive openness, cultivate public participation, and strengthen our nation's democracy through public access to high-value government records.

Vision

Cutting-edge access to extraordinary volumes of government information and unprecedented engagement to bring greater meaning to the American experience.

Values

Collaborate, Innovate, Learn

Left: Transfer of Charters of Freedom to the National Archives, 12/13/1952 (National Archives Identifier: 5928179)



National Archives History

1934: Established to preserve and care for records of the U.S. Government

1949: Incorporated with General Services Administration

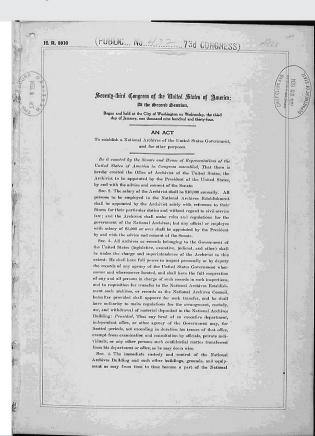
1985: Made independent agency

40 facilities across the country

- Federal Records Centers
- Presidential Libraries
- Office of the Federal Register
- <u>National Historical Publications and</u> Records Commission.

Right: MO 1947.93.74; Wheelchair Used by Franklin Roosevelt; ca. 1941-1945; Personal Possessions of the Roosevelt Family, 1941 – 2020 (FDR Library) **Far Right:** An Act of June 19, 1934 ("National Archives Act"), Public Law 73-432, 48 STAT 1122, to Create a National Archives of the United States Government, and for Other Purposes (National Archives Identifier: 299840)







Presidential Libraries



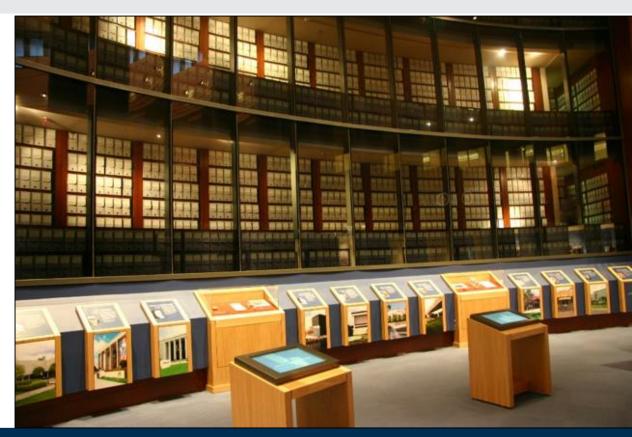
- Not mandatory, choice of outgoing Presidents
- Embraced from Herbert Hoover, through Barack Obama (14 currently existing)
- Construction paid for with private and nonfederal funds raised by respective presidents
- Collections, museums overseen and maintained by National Archives
- Many libraries supported in part by non-profit foundations



Carter Presidential Library

- Opened October 1, 1986
- 40 million pages of written materials
- 40,000 museum objects/artifacts
- 500,000 photographs
- 2,500 hours of film, audio and video tape

Right: A portion of the Carter Library archival collections as seen from the museum floor (Carter Library)





What's the Secret?

To find the secret to an extraordinary life, we will discuss President Carter's:

- Early Life
- Adult Life
- Political Life
- Post-Presidency

Right: President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter wave to supporters and others attending an Inaugural Ball, 1/20/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 173391)





Early Life

Extraordinary Mother: Lillian Carter

- Delivers Jimmy while volunteering as a nurse at a hospital (1st President born in a hospital, 1924)
- Ignored rules of racial segregation
- Joined the Peace Corps in India at age 68
- Jimmy's BIGGEST fan

Right: Lillian Carter on the family farm with daughter Ruth, and son Jimmy, Archery, Georgia (Carter Library)

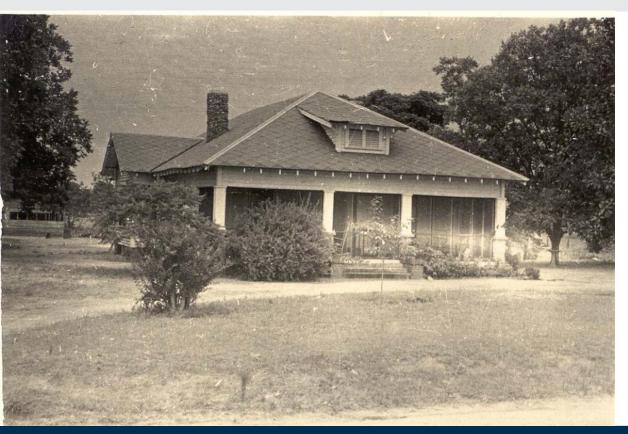
Far Right: Lillian Carter celebrates her son Jimmy's victory in the 1976 Presidential Election (Carter Library)







Early Life



Extraordinary Home

- Home construction kit ordered from Sears
- No running water or electricity until Jimmy was a teenager

What parts of your daily life depend on the availability of electricity and running water?

Left: Jimmy Carter's Boyhood Home in Archer, Georgia (National Park Service)



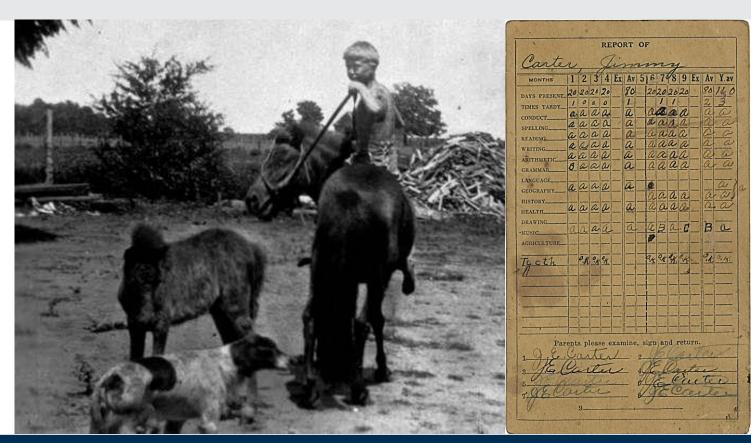
Early Life

Extraordinary Work at Home and School

- Woke up "an hour before daylight" for farm chores
- Consistently earned "A's" in most school subjects

Right: Jimmy Carter on the family farm as a boy (Carter Library) **Far Right:** Jimmy Carter's First

Grade Report Card (Carter Library)





Adult Life

Extraordinary Military Service

- Graduates from U.S. Naval Academy with distinction, studies reactor technology and nuclear physics in submarine school
- Executive officer, engineering officer, and electronics repair officer on the submarine *USS K-1*
- Selected for Navy's nuclear-powered submarine program, led first nuclear meltdown response team in history at Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada, 1952

Right: Lieutenant James Earl "Jimmy" Carter in main control room of USS K-1 (Naval History and Heritage Command)





Adult Life





Extraordinary Entrepreneurship

- After father's death, leaves active duty to take reins of family peanut farm, warehouse and store in Plains
- Moves family into public housing, makes \$250 profit first year but turns business around
- Builds strong community relationships, inspired to enter politics

Right: Lieutenant James Earl "Jimmy" Carter in main control room of USS K-1 (Naval History and Heritage Command)





Adult Life

Extraordinary Change

- Overturns fraudulent election defeat for Georgia State Senator
- Wins Georgia governor's race on second attempt

"I say to you quite frankly, that the time for racial discrimination is over."

Right: Campaign poster for one of Jimmy Carter's successful runs for the Georgia State Senate. (Carter Library)

Far Right: Jimmy Carter shaking hands with voters while running for Georgia governor(Carter Library)

CARTER



SENATOR





Extraordinary Supporters

- As Governor of Georgia, Carter worked to strengthen copyright laws for recording artists
- Endorsed by Allman
 Brothers, Willie Nelson, and other popular artists in both presidential campaigns

Right: Poster for The Allman Brothers Band in a Benefit Concert for Jimmy Carter (National Archives Identifier: 134408762)

Top Right: Jimmy Carter sings onstage with Willie Nelson at a White House concert (Carter Library) **Bottom Right:** Jimmy Carter looks on as Muddy Waters performs at a White House event (Carter Library)

TONY RUFFINO, LARRY VAUGHN & DON LAW present

ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND





TUES. NOVEMBER 25 at 8 P.M. PROVIDENCE CIVIC CENTER

Tickets \$6.50 Advance

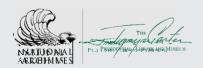
\$7.50 Day of Show

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE FOR JIMMY CARTER, R.J. LIPSHULTZ—TREAS.
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A COPY OF OUR REPORT IS FILED WITH THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C.







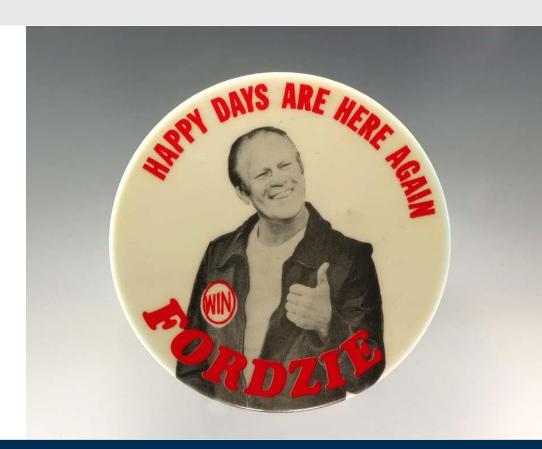
Extraordinary Election of 1976

- Gerald Ford was an incumbent running for election, NOT re-election
- Appointed Vice-President following resignation of Nixon's VP Agnew
- Becomes President when Nixon resigns

Further Inquiry:

- National Archives blog on 25th Amendment
- Jimmy Carter Remembers Gerald Ford

Right: White Campaign Button With Image of President Gerald R. Ford as the Fonz Wearing a WIN Button (National Archives Identifier: **28360684**)





Extraordinary Communication

- Builds upon work of Nixon, Ford administrations
- Establishes Diplomatic
 Relations with China, "most
 significant accomplishment"
 of his presidency

Further Inquiry:

China Policy, 1977-1980

Right: Deng Xiaoping and Jimmy Carter meeting in Washington following the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China, 1/29/1979 (National Archives Identifier: **183165**)









Extraordinary Resolve

Carter administration faced several crises in four years:

- Energy Crisis
- Environmental Crisis
- <u>Cold War/Middle East</u> Peace
- Hostage Crisis in Iran

Far Left: Sweater worn by President Carter during his fireside chat, 2/2/1977 (Carter Library) **Left:** "The Battle of the Energy Drainers!" comic book created by Marvel in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy (Carter Library)



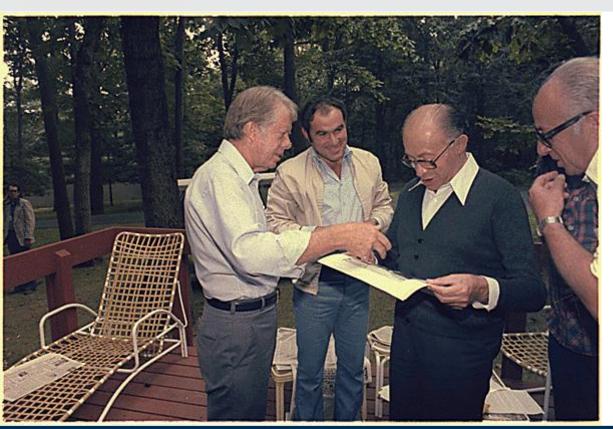


Extraordinary Conservation

- Uses Executive Orders to spur Congress to pass Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)
- Protects more than 100 million acres of land
- Creates 34 new national parks, forests, monuments & wildlife refuges
- Made Honorary National Park Ranger

Left: For his contributions to conservation as President, Jimmy Carter is made an honorary National Park Ranger by the National Park Service (NPS Photo)





Extraordinary Determination

- Personally keeps Camp David summit from collapsing
- Ends four decades of war between Israel & Egypt
- Sadat and Begin are awarded Nobel Peace Prize, both feel Carter should have won it

Left: Jimmy Carter and Menachem Begin with members of the Israeli delegation at Camp David, 09/17/1978 (National Archives Identifier: 181417)



President Carter speaks about Menachem Begin and the Camp David Accords, LBJ Foundation **Civil Rights** Summit, 04/09/2014 (LBJ **Foundation**)





Extraordinary Commitment

- Following Iranian Revolution,
 52 Americans taken hostage,
 held for 444 days
- Carter committed to peaceful resolution
- Works until last minutes of presidency to free every hostage unharmed

Left: American hostages freed from Iran celebrate their arrival at Rhein-Main U.S. Air Force Base in Frankfurt, West Germany, 1/21/1981 (Carter Library)







Extraordinary First Lady

- Champion of <u>Mental Health</u> Awareness since serving as First Lady of Georgia
- Regularly attended Cabinet Meetings, met with world leaders on behalf of President
- Active supporter of the <u>Equal</u> <u>Rights Amendment</u>

Left: First Lady Rosalynn Carter at the President's Commission on Mental Health, Chicago, Illinois, 1977 (National Archives Identifier: 5730827)





Extraordinary Concern

- With Rosalynn, founds non-profit Carter Center
- Dedicated to waging peace, fighting disease, building hope
- Health and Human Rights programs in 80 countries

Left: Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter comforts sixyear-old Ruhama Issah at Savelugu Hospital as Adams Bawa, a Carter Center technical assistant dresses her Guinea worm wound, 2/8/2007 (Carter Center/Louise Gubb)



Extraordinary Leadership

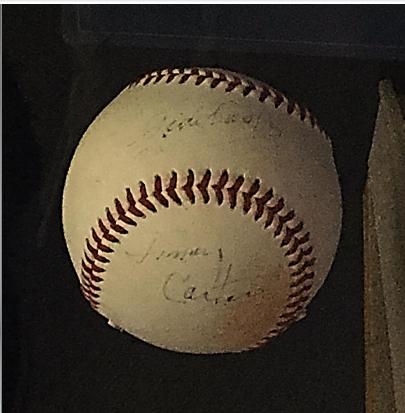
In 2002, Carter travels to <u>Cuba</u> to meet with Fidel Castro to discuss human rights, foreign relations

 Attends Cuban All-Star Game, throws out first pitch (<u>Carter chose Hank</u> <u>Aaron's #44 for jersey</u>)

Pieces of History: Fidel
Castro's Childhood Plea to
President Franklin Roosevelt

Right: Personalized Cuban baseball jersey gifted to President Carter (Carter Library) **Far Right:** Baseball signed by Fidel Castro and Jimmy Carter (Carter Library)







Extraordinary Redemption

- "A's" in every subject except Music
- Awarded Grammy for "Best Spoken Word Album" three times (also won by Presidents Clinton, Obama)

Right: Jimmy Carter's Sixth Grade Report Card (Carter Library)

Far Right: One of three Grammies awarded to Jimmy Carter for "Best Spoken Word Album" (Carter Library)

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Extraordinary Recognition

Receives the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002

"for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development"

Left: Jimmy Carter's 2002 Nobel Peace Prize on display at the Carter Presidential Library & Museum, Atlanta, Georgia (Carter Library)





Extraordinary Endurance

- Defeats brain cancer at 92
- Longest-living President in U.S. History (b. 10/1/1924)
- Longest married Presidential couple (7/7/1946)

Left: 2016 presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton at their 75th wedding anniversary celebration (Carter Center)



Jimmy's Answer

Extraordinary Faith and Public Service

"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."

- Jimmy Carter -

Right: Jimmy Carter greets residents of South Bronx, New York, 10/5/1977 (National Archives

Identifier: 176402)





Follow-Up Activity

What Primary Sources Will Tell Your Extraordinary Life Story?

- 1. Review the presentation, paying close attention to the different types of primary sources highlighting President Carter's Life.
- 2. Think about your current life goals and ambitions and imagine what examples of photographs, artifacts, documents, posters, artwork, audio or film will exist for researchers to access to learn your life story; these can be actual sources that already exist, or theoretical ones in the future.
- 3. Choose one of these sources that is most meaningful to you and either create it, or if it already exists, provide a copy for submission to be shared with the class (physical or digital format acceptable).
- 4. Students will choose two of their classmates' primary sources and complete the appropriate <u>Document</u>

 <u>Analysis Worksheet</u> for their skill level and source type, followed by group discussion.



Further Inquiry

Online Student and Educator Resources

Carter Library on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>YouTube</u>

Frequently Requested Carter Research Topics

<u>Carter Library Museum Virtual Tour</u>

Carter Library Teacher Resources

Carter Library Professional Development

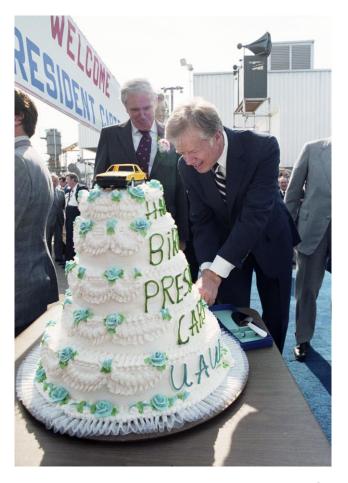
The Carter Center Teacher Resource Center

<u>Jimmy Carter National Historical Park Teacher Resources</u>

National Archives Educator Resources

DocsTeach





Thank You!

Left: Jimmy Carter being Presented with a Birthday Cake by the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local #900 in Detroit, Michigan, 10/1/1980 (National Archives Identifier: 6783223)